

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An isolated ~~nucleic acid molecule~~ polynucleotide encoding a SEL-12, whose amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.
2. (currently amended) An isolated ~~nucleic acid molecule~~ polynucleotide encoding a mutated SEL-12 having a mutation therein, consisting of an amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of: a leucine at position 115, an arginine at position 132, a glutamic acid at position 215, a tyrosine at position 387, or an isoleucine at position 104, which position numbers correspond to the position numbers of SEQ ID NO:1.
3. (currently amended) An isolated ~~nucleic acid molecule of claim 2~~ polynucleotide encoding SEL-12, wherein having therein a the mutation consisting of mutated SEL-12 contains at least one of the following: leucine at position 115, arginine at position 132, glutamic acid at position 215, a valine substitution at position 229, valine at position 254, valine at position 255, valine at position 371, tyrosine at position 387, isoleucine at position 104, or valine at position 204, which position numbers correspond to the position numbers of SEQ ID NO:1.
4. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The polynucleotide isolated ~~nucleic acid molecule of claim 2 or 3, wherein the mutation causes a reduction or elimination of SEL-12 activity.~~ the mutated SEL-12 contains one or more alterations.

5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) An isolated DNA molecule of claim 1, 2, or 3, ~~any of claim 2 or 3~~
8. (currently amended) An isolated cDNA molecule of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, 2, or 3.
- 9-14. (canceled)
15. (currently amended) A vector which comprises the ~~isolated nucleic acid molecule~~ polynucleotide of claim 1, 2 or 23.
16. (currently amended) The vector of claim 15, wherein the ~~An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 7~~ polynucleotide is operatively linked to a promoter of RNA transcription.
17. (currently amended) The vector of claim 15, wherein the vector is a plasmid.
18. (currently amended) The plasmid designated pMX8, deposited with the American Type Culture Collection under Designation ~~(ATCC Accession No. 97278)~~.
19. (currently amended) The plasmid designated p1-1E, deposited with the American Type Culture Collection under Designation ~~(ATCC Accession No. 97279)~~.
20. (currently amended) A host vector system for the production of a SEL-12 protein which comprises the vector of claim 15 and a suitable host cell.
21. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The host vector system of claim 20, wherein the suitable host cell is a bacterial cell, a insect cell, a plant cell or a mammalian cell.